



## **Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council**

**February 14, 2012**

**10:00 AM**

**RI Emergency Management Agency**

645 New London Avenue  
Cranston, Rhode Island

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **Attendance**

MG Kevin R. McBride  
J. David Smith  
Dawn Lewis  
Erin Lambie  
James Ball  
Jeff Stevens  
Steven Florio  
Peter Ginaitt  
Brian Pires  
Peter Marinucci  
Bill Mullen  
Joe McCooey  
Gregory Scungio  
Arthur Bovis  
Marian Juskuv  
Jay Levenson  
Randall Ricketts  
Donna DiMichele  
Derek Jordan  
Theresa Woodmansee  
Norm Menard  
Michael DeMello  
Annemarie Beardsworth  
Larry Grimaldi  
James Lanni  
Robert Leach  
Vladimir Ibarra

## **Call to Order / Comments/Welcome Remarks– MG Kevin R. McBride P.E.**

MG McBride informed the members that Deputy Johnson was in Vermont at a Radiological Conference and Director Murray was unavailable.

MG McBride discussed the preliminary work that Elizabeth McDonald from the American Red Cross, RI EMA and the office of the Lieutenant Governor have been working towards with the RI League of Cities and Towns. The three agencies plan to outreach to the RI League of Cities and Towns to discuss regional sheltering plans.

## **Approval of Minutes from January 10, 2012**

Minutes were unanimously approved.

## **Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee reports**

### **A. Interoperability Communications Committee—*J. David Smith, Salve Regina University.***

Mr. Smith discussed the public safety implications in Congress with regards to the 700 MHz D Block and preserving the narrowband. The public-safety provisions of the legislation are part of spectrum language that expands the Federal Communications Commission's authority to auction spectrum to airwaves currently licensed to television broadcasters.

Mr. Smith updated the members on a new site in Middletown, which will provide coverage to most users across the Bay and the Warren site will be moved to Kent Heights in East Providence. Also, Tropical Storm Irene caused some minor structural damage to the base of the North Kingstown Tower and there has been coordination with the Town for a purchase order. Today there are teams on the field looking at high performance data. The site is ready to go in Warwick CCRI to extend statewide.

Lastly, Mr. Smith stated that under state law the chair of the Interoperability Communications Committee (ICC) is the director of RIEMA and that he would reach out to Director Murray for further discussion.

### **B. Hospital Preparedness Working Group—*Alysia Mihalakos, Dept. of Health / Dawn Lewis, Hospital Association of Rhode Island.***

Ms. Lewis stated that as a follow-up to the Barrington Pertussis cluster, HEALTH, in partnership with the municipalities and The Wellness Company, is hosting 21 Tdap clinics across the state to boost rates of Pertussis vaccination. The first clinic was Saturday in Smithfield and East Providence is tomorrow night. Clinic dates, times, and locations are on HEALTH's website [www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov).

Ms. Mihalakos and the Office of Health and Human Services (OHHS) Chief of Legal Services have been meeting with the Department of Administration legal, risk management, and Worker's

Comp staff regarding the liability coverage of volunteers outside of governor's declared emergency. Last summer, there was an incident where a RI Medical Reserve Corps member was injured and Worker's Comp did not cover because Rhode Island General Law Title 30-15 Emergency Management was not activated. The team that is meeting is discussing multiple interim solutions, such as insurance coverage or changes to HEALTH's statutes that would allow for more comprehensive coverage of volunteers during planned events, exercises, training, and emergencies at the local or state level.

The subcommittee has been working on Regions I and II MOU between all hospitals that have the ability to accept critical care patients to allow for receipt of evacuated patients. MOU is out and under review by the CEOs and do not anticipate any difficulties in the signing it. The next identified challenge is the ability to provide the appropriate number of transport vehicles and necessary transport teams to the affected facility within a reasonable amount of time.

Lastly, HEALTH had a conversation with a vendor to discuss development of a mutual aid plan and inventory of resources at all of the nursing homes in the state. This vendor is currently working with several of the hospitals in the state on their EOPs and evacuation plans and is being utilized by CT and MA for their LTC mutual aid plans.

C. Haz Mat/Decon Technical Working Group—*James Ball, Dept. of Environmental Management.*

Mr. Ball discussed training opportunities including the "Radiation Fundamentals" at the Radisson and the Tier2 Conference at the Crowne Plaza. He was pleased that the Tier2 Conference will increase self reporting through the Department of Labor and Training. Mr. Ball mentioned several activities that the group will be monitoring including Tall Ships, Americas Cup and Operation Vigilant Guard.

Mr. Ball discussed the need to change the bi-laws of the state emergency plan and the drafting of a letter to the Superintendents. MG McBride commented that the RI Association of Emergency Managers could be a starting point and suggested reaching out to its current Director Joseph Arsenault.

Lastly, Mr. Ball discussed the incident at the RI Traffic Tribunal in Cranston, when it was evacuated due to an envelope found that contained a white powdery substance. Further investigation proved to be a false alarm but Mr. Ball was very pleased with the situational awareness and the protocols used.

D. Behavioral Health Disaster Response Network Working Group—*Susan Earley, Behavioral Healthcare Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.*

No report

E. Volunteer/Citizens' Corps Council—*Vincent Marzullo, Corporation for National & Community Service.*

Unable to attend

F. Law Enforcement Working Group—*Lt. James Manni, Rhode Island State Police.*

Lt. Manni commented on the rapid response by RIEMA to the AMBERT Alert and how the system is designed to make RIEMA the EOC/Emergency Operations Center. The phone calls received by Rhode Island residents were quite accurate and served to locate the girl within a few hours. An “After Action Report” will be formulated tomorrow to try to address communication challenges including several major stations not linked into the system. The media piece will be worked on along with the Rhode Island Broadcasters Association.

Lt. Manni went over several activities that the group will be focusing on including the Iron Man competition, Tall Ships, Jazz & Folk Festivals and Operation Vigilant Guard.

G. Port Security—*Erin Lambie, United States Coast Guard.*

Ms. Lambie reported that Sector Southeastern New England is continuing to drill on Mass Rescue Operations. The focus has been Cape Cod, but in March and April they will drill the personnel on a scenario in Rhode Island. They are very close to getting the RICOP system installed in the East Providence office. Once installed they will have the capability to monitor the system, use it for operations and conduct video teleconferences with other agencies around the State.

The Area Maritime Security Sub-Committee meetings have been conducted in Providence-East Providence and Quonset Point-Davisville regions to examine security issues in these areas and discuss the response to a security incident in these regions. They are also updating the Straw man Incident Action Plans for each of these regions during the meetings. Meetings in Point Judith-Block Island and Newport-Jamestown will be conducted in March.

Lastly, the Port Security Grant Program details were announced on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for grant applications is May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The Port Cluster of Narragansett Bay including Providence, Newport and Fall River, MA has been bumped up in risk ranking to a Group II port. Approximately \$29 million is available for Group II applications and there is a requirement for either a cash or in-kind match for applicants. Further details can be found on Sector Southeastern New England’s Homeport page at <http://homeport.uscg.mil/sene>.

H. Special Populations Working Group—*Steven Florio Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing /Jeffrey Stevens, Dept. of Health.*

Mr. Stevens discussed the MOU established between RIEMA, HEALTH, and E-911 to have E-911 telecommunicators share up to three disability indicators of enrollees in the Rhode Island Special Needs Registry.

ESRI is working on the Beta release at the end of February. Mr. Macedo from RIEMA is helping with the statewide test of the notification system incorporated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation release of the Registry.

The group is continuing their outreach efforts focusing on communities that have not been traditionally part of their efforts and Mr. Cournoyer from RIEMA will bring in an Americorps NCCC team to help.

I. Urban Search and Rescue—*Chief Robert Seltzer, Central Coventry Fire Department.*

No report

J. Transportation Security Working Group—*Brian Pires, Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council/Transportation Security Working Group.*

Mr. Pires discussed several intermodal interventions and how the team has augmented the existing infrastructure to include rail and Port Authority. TSA has eight VIPR (Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response) operations pushing the intermodal facet and the maritime domain needs force multipliers

The Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council has been focusing on faith outreach to Muslims and the Jewish Federation and the RI Fusion Center will be the lead.

K. Mass Casualty —*Lt. Patrick McMahon, Charlestown Police Department.*

Lt. McMahon had a previous court matter and was unable to join the group. However, trailers have been inventoried and the group is not scheduled to meet until February 20.

## **I. New Business, Member Comments, Suggestions**

Donna DiMichele from the Office of Library Information Services introduced the new Protecting the Past coordinator Theresa Woodmansee.

Ms. Woodmansee invited members to participate at their Blackstone Valley Area presentation on Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. For further information about the project please contact Ms. Woodmansee at 401.253.1691 and/or [Theresa.woodmansee@gmail.com](mailto:Theresa.woodmansee@gmail.com)

Next Meeting will take place on March 13<sup>th</sup>.